

Sūrah 101

Al-Qāri'ah

(The Calamity)

(Makkan Period)

Title

The opening word *al-Qāri'ah* (the calamity) constitutes this *Sūrah*'s title and underscores its theme in that it deals only with the Last Day.

Period of Revelation

This is definitely an early Makkan *Sūrah*.

Subject Matter and Themes

The Last Day and the Hereafter are the *Sūrah*'s main concerns. It opens with a shocking announcement about the calamity. Having prepared listeners/readers mentally, it conjures up the spectacle of the Last Day – how people will scatter in panic like moths and how mountains will float like fluffs of carded wool. Each person will be adjudged on the basis of his deeds, which will be weighed on a scale. Those whose scales weigh heavier will have a blissful life whereas those whose scales weigh lighter will be thrown into the pit of blazing fire.